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UNDP Supports Recovery and Rehabilitation in Haiti

The first international donors' meeting for Haiti since President Aristide's return to that country in October of 1994 concluded in Paris on 31 January with donors pledging some US$900 million to help Haiti finance emergency and development needs during the next 12-15 months. The meeting brought together some 20 bilateral and multilateral donors in support of Haiti's recovery programme.

Haiti is seeking to improve health, education and nutrition services and to provide a social safety net for about 70 per cent of its population which lives in abject poverty. Other national priorities include administrative and judicial reform, environmental protection, the repatriation of Haitian refugees and the aversion of a potential energy crisis. In the 1992-93 period, the World Bank estimates that GNP in Haiti fell by about 15 per cent to below $250, making the country the poorest by far in the Western Hemisphere. Job losses were estimated at about 70 per cent in important export-oriented sectors as of the end of 1993 and 40 per cent in industries for domestic markets.

UNDP has committed $32 million for Haiti's development and rehabilitation needs for the 1995-96 period, which includes $11 million which was specially authorized by UNDP's Executive Board. "Our three main areas of support for Haiti are governance, poverty alleviation and environment," says

M. Lisky / UNDP

Employment creation and job training are important UNDP Goals in Haiti

Fernando Zumbado, Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. "We're also working to strengthen Haitian democratic institutions in coordination with other multinational donors."

In the important area of the environment, UNDP is helping create a national environment plan, and is also carrying out pilot projects in reforestation and water control. To promote poverty alleviation, it is stressing job creation programmes and the provision of basic services in water, health and sanitation.

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In governance, it is working to strengthen civic institutions, and is promoting an important civic education programme in human rights.

Additionally, UNDP has prioritized technical support for several Haitian radio stations, which were largely wiped out during the country's *coup d'etat*. In this area it is also financing a project with the Inter Press Service to promote news flow out of Haiti in several languages during this period of rehabilitation. Support services and training to the Haitian media are also being provided by UNDP through InfoServices, a local media centre.

UNDP Names Three New Ambassadors for Human Development

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced last week that it has named three distinguished Human Development Ambassadors who will serve the international community by helping to make people-centred development more of a reality. The announcement was made in Copenhagen at the World Summit for Social Development. The three new ambassadors are: Oscar Arias Sanches, former President of Costa Rica and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987; General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces and founder and chairman of the Africa Leadership Foundation and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, which provides social services throughout that country. The three will act as spokespersons and serve as high-level emissaries to convey past experiences and innovative policy approaches to human development.

Oscar Arias Sanches, General Olusegun Obasanjo and Princess Basma were chosen because they share a deep commitment to the cause of putting people at the centre of development and are visionaries and leaders in their respective areas of work. All three are advocates of hope, optimism and realism, and have ideas for ensuring more equitable development into the next century.

Since 1990, UNDP has been supporting a series of annual *Human Development Reports* which define progress based not only on economic indicators but also on advances in meeting human needs. The reports reaffirm that if the development challenge is to be met, people must be at the heart of the process. The reports combine three indices — life expectancy, educational attainment and purchasing power — to create a single "Human Development Index." The reports have helped encourage a broad-based development dialogue about people-centred development throughout the world.

A Swedish Workshop Casts Light on Gender Concerns in Development

A workshop aimed at assisting the Swedish government in defining and developing its overall policy on gender and development brought together many leading experts and thinkers on the subject and was assisted by the United Nations Development programme. Rosina Wiltshire, Manager of UNDP's Gender in Development Programme, led a think-tank panel at the February meeting that sought to help Sweden better incorporate gender concerns into its development cooperation programmes over the next decade.

The Stockholm meeting identified and helped to analyze the most important issues for gender and development in the coming decade, and the role that development cooperation should play in that context. The event also assisted Sweden in finalizing its contributions for both the World Social Summit in Copenhagen and the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women.

"Three major areas of focus for the Swedish government, which also apply to development cooperation in general, were hammered out at the Stockholm meeting," says Ms. Wiltshire. "First is the necessity for institutional change within donor organizations to reflect gender concerns; second, the need to focus on a transformation of values concerning gender equity and human dignity in development cooperation in general; and lastly, the strengthening of democratic processes in developing countries, which should work to empower women."

The 20 participants, coming from different parts of the world and representing various international agencies, included Laketch Dirasse of the Africa Women in Crisis (AFWIC); Naila Kabir, from the Institute of Development Studies; Caroline Moser of the World Bank; Marguerite Berger from the Inter-American Development Bank; Lourdes Beneria from Cornell University and Patricia McFadden, of the Southern African Regional institute for Policy Studies.

"In the 1980s gender equity was the big goal, but now we can state that we have gone even further, and that without gender equity there will be no development in the decade ahead," says Agneta Hallden, Coordinator of Gender and Development for the Swedish International Development Agency. During the last decade, Ms. Hallden added, the global situation for women changed dramatically largely because of the victory of the market economy, which has brought both positive and negative implications for women in developing countries.

"The widening gaps in incomes that have resulted hit the must vulnerable groups the hardest, where women are often a majority," Ms. Hallden said. "The gender perspective must therefore be further lifted up and better integrated in long-term development planning."

UNDP Forms New Partnership to Involve Youth as Emissaries

UNDP and the International Association of Students in Economics and Management have launched a new joint programme entitled "Youth Emissaries for Sustainable Human Development." Envisioned as a way of strengthening UNDP's global outreach, the new programme will directly involve youth worldwide as emissaries in the promotion of sustainable human development. The young emissaries will serve as a bridge among youth, academia, business, local and international communities.

The Youth Emissaries programme will involve youth worldwide in stimulating students to include sustainable human development issues in their studies, research and future professional work. It will help work to increase the level of awareness of issues pertaining to sustainable human development in local communities and will encourage youth involvement in action-oriented projects.

The International Association of Students in Economics and Management was founded in 1948 to make business and economics students more aware and responsive to the underlying economic, social and environmental challenges confronting business and their communities. Its global student network maintains partnerships with international organizations, development agencies, governments, alumni and private enterprises and reaches about 50,000 students through local offices in more than 80 countries.

UNDP launches New Book on Social and Economic Challenges

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a long-awaited book last week at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. Entitled *PEOPLE: From Impoverishment to Empowerment*, the book examines the social and economic problems that confront the international community as we approach the turn-of-the-century, and explores the question of how to empower people in order to foster a global environment of peace, prosperity and social harmony. It is edited by Üner Kirdar, director of UNDP's Development Study Programme, and the late Leonard Silk, a former economics columnist for the *New York Times*.

Contained in the volume are the thoughts and recommendations of over 50 distinguished national and international policy-makers, academics, leaders of public and private enterprises, and the media. Its foreword is written by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and the introduction by James Gustave Speth, Administrator of UNDP. A special edition was prepared for the World Summit for Social Development by its publisher, New York University Press.

"This book is about people, how to end their impoverishment and how to empower them," writes the UN Secretary-General in his foreword. "Today the challenge before us is twofold: to comprehend and analyze the nature of the social, economic and political changes happening in the world, and to understand their implications for the management of the international system. The international community will be considering some of these issues at the first-ever World Summit for Social Development. I see this book as a valuable contribution to the preparations being made for the Summit meeting."

The book's first part examines the patterns of increasing world poverty and considers its political, economic, social, and environmental impacts along with measures for its alleviation. Its second part looks into the issues of unemployment and underemployment, and proposes national and international policies for the expansion of productive employment. The third section examines the increasing incidence of social disintegration and ethnic conflicts, and highlights strategies for making societies more cohesive.

It concludes with suggestions on how to strengthen international cooperation — including the role of the United Nations — and with recommendations of how to expand the capabilities and choices of people in order to promote

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innovation and initiative.

Copies may be ordered for US$40 by contacting New York University Press, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012, USA.

New Director Named for UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

Mr. Anders Wijkman of Sweden has been named Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS).

Mr. Wijkman brings to UNDP an exceptional combination of stature within the international development community, substantive development expertise, strong qualities of leadership, top-level management experience and a deep personal commitment to the principles of the United Nations.

Mr. Wijkman is currently the Director-General of the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), which responsibility he assumed in 1992. Prior to his assignment with SAREC, Mr. Wijkman was Secretary-General of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (1989-92), the leading environmental NGO in Sweden. From 1979 to 1988, he was Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, where he also served as President of the International Red Cross Disaster Relief Commission. For several years, he was a member of the Swedish Parliament (1970-78), specializing in issues related to foreign affairs, foreign aid, energy and environment. He is the author of several books on such topics as disaster relief, development, the environment and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Wijkman is expected to assume his new function as Assistant Administrator and Director, BPPS, in April 1995.

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